

Fast 4: Prophet does not ask for any personal reward, return or gain from people

- The revelation of the Holy Prophet addressed him as follows:

1. “Say: I do not ask you for any reward for it. It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.” — 6:90

قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا ۖ إِن هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ
لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

2. “And you ask them no reward for it. It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations.” — 12:104

وَمَا تَسْأَلُهُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ۗ إِن هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

3. “Say: I ask of you no reward for it except that whoever wishes may take a way to his Lord.” — 25:57

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ
يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ﴿٥٧﴾

4. “Whatever reward I ask of you, that is only for yourselves. My reward is only with Allah, and He is a Witness over all things.” — 34:47

قُلْ مَا سَأَلْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَجْرٍ فَهُوَ لَكُمْ ۗ إِن أَجْرِي إِلَّا
عَلَىٰ اللَّهِ ۖ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٤٧﴾

5. “Say: I ask you no reward for it; nor am I one of the impostors. It is nothing but a Reminder for the nations. And certainly you will come to know about it after a time.” — 38:86–88

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ
الْمُتَكَلِّفِينَ ﴿٨٦﴾ إِن هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨٧﴾ وَ
لَتَعْلَمَنَّ نَبَأَ بَعْدَ حِينٍ ﴿٨٨﴾

The statement that the Prophet did not ask for any reward at all is made very often in the Holy Quran. The preacher of virtue never asks for any reward.

Verses 1 and 2 above say that what the Prophet wanted was not a reward for himself, but to convey to people of all nations “a Reminder” by which they would remember God and His teachings. According to verse 3 above, the Prophet was showing people a way to the Lord, only for their benefit, those who wished to follow it. Verse 4 says that the Prophet’s reward for his work does not come from the people; rather, the reward of his work goes to the people themselves, since they benefit from his teachings. Verse 5 is a clear prophecy that in the end people would come to know that the Holy Prophet was not an imposter, who was after some gain from his people, but had delivered to them a book for all nations.

- Noah was commanded to say the following:

“But if you turn back, I ask for no reward from you. My reward is only with Allah, and I am commanded to be of those who submit.” — 10:72

فَإِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ مِمَّا سَأَلْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ۖ إِن أَجْرِي إِلَّا عَلَىٰ
اللَّهِ ۖ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾

“And, my people, I do not ask you for wealth (in return) for it. My reward is only with Allah, and I am not going to drive away those who believe. Surely they will meet their Lord, but I see you a people who are ignorant. And, my people, who will help me against Allah, if I drive them away? Will you not then be mindful?” —11:29–30

وَيَقُولُوا لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَالًا ۖ إِنِ اجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ۗ إِنَّهُمْ مُلْقُوا رَبِّهِمْ وَلَكِنِّيَ أَرَاكُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾ وَيَقُولُ مَنْ يُنصِرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنِ طَرَدْتُهُمْ ۗ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

The “drive away” here is in reference to the leaders of Noah’s people saying to him: Your followers are from the lowest classes, so if you turn them away from you we will follow you. Noah condemns this objection as based on their ignorance.

- Another prophet was commanded to say:

“My people, I ask of you no reward for it. My reward is only with Him Who created me. Do you not then understand?” — 11:51

يَقُولُوا لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا ۖ إِنِ اجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ فَطَرَنِي ۖ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٥١﴾

- Chapter 26 mentions five prophets who said to their people:

“And I ask of you no reward for it: my reward is only with the Lord of the worlds.”

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ۖ إِنِ اجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

These were the prophets Noah (26:109), Hūd (26:127), Sālih (26:145), Lot (26:164) and Shuaib (26:180).

- A believer in a prophet said to his people:

“Follow him who asks of you no reward, and they are on the right course.” — 36:21

اتَّبِعُوا مَنْ لَا يَسْأَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

- Religious teachers and clerics often seek some gain from the people, such as money, position, influence, popularity etc. Incidents of their greed are legendary. In the present times, many of them seek political power through their religious leadership. They keep the masses trapped in ritual practices and ignorance because they want to ingratiate themselves with the masses. They cannot risk reforming the people because, if they told the people that they are doing wrong things, they would incur the people’s opposition.
- But no prophet sought any gain from people. The aim of every one of them was solely their guidance and reform. This is seen most clearly in the life of the Holy Prophet. Every Muslim religious leader and preacher should also follow this example.